

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

December 28, 2004

IN RE:

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO
THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY LIMITED
PARTNERSHIP AND SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY, L.P.**

**DOCKET NO.
04-00321**

**ORDER APPROVING
THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This matter came before Chairman Pat Miller, Director Deborah Taylor Tate and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on November 22, 2004, to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership and Sprint Communications Company, L.P.

The original interconnection agreement negotiated between these parties was filed on August 1, 2002, and was assigned Docket No. 02-00836.¹ It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on September 9, 2002. The first amendment was filed June 20, 2003, under Docket No. 03-00398, and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority

¹ The *Order Approving Interconnection Agreement* listed only Sprint Communications Company, L P in the style. The style should have reflected both Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership and Sprint Communications Company, L P

Conference on August 4, 2003. The second amendment was filed on January 21, 2004, under Docket No. 04-00020 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on March 22, 2004. The third amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on September 29, 2004.

Based upon a review of the amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004).

2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s service area.

3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).² Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

² See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)

- 5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.
- 6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

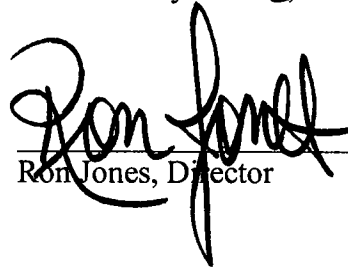
The Petition is granted, and the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership and Sprint Communications Company, L.P. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.



Pat Miller, Chairman



Deborah Taylor Tate, Director



Ron Jones, Director